In the Specification:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

A data flow control method and system within a data switch. The data switch includes a plurality of input sections each having an associated input buffer and each transmitting data to an output section. In response to a detection of congestion within the output section, data transmissions from the plurality of input sections to the output section are paused. Input buffer occupancies of each of the input sections are then determined. Thereafter, and in response to a backpressure relief signal, the restart of said data transmission from each of the input sections to the output section is delayed in inverse proportion to each of the determined input buffer occupancies.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Unchanged) A data flow control method within a data switch having at least one input section which includes an input buffer from which said input section transmits data to an output section through a switching fabric, said data flow control method comprising the steps of:

pausing data transmission from said input section to said output section in response to a detection of congestion within said switching fabric or within said output section;

determining input buffer occupancy of said input section during said pause; and

delaying restart of data transmission from said input section to said output section in accordance with said determined input buffer occupancy.

2. (Unchanged) The data flow control method of claim 1, wherein said data switch further includes an output buffer within said output section and switching fabric for routing data from said input section to said output section, and wherein said step of pausing data transmission from said input section is preceded by the steps of:

detecting a congested condition within said output buffer; and

in response to said detection of a congested condition within an output buffer, generating a backpressure signal within said switch fabric.

3. (Unchanged) The data flow control method of claim 2, wherein said step of detecting a